

REPORT

OF

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 8th February 1890.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Kasipore Nibási" ...	Kasipore, Burrisal ...	30	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	"Ahammadi" ...	Tangail, Mymensingh	450	
3	"Ave Maria" ...	Calcutta	.....
4	"Divákar" ...	Ditto	.....
5	"Gaura Duta" ...	Maldah	.....
6	"Purva Bangabási" ...	Noakholly	.....
7	"Purva Darpan" ...	Chittagong	700	
8	"Uttara Banga Hitaishi" ...	Mahiganj, Rungpore...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Arya Darpan" ...	Calcutta	102	31st January 1890.
10	"Bangabási" ...	Ditto	20,000	1st February 1890.
11	"Bángalá Exchange Gazette" ...	Calcutta	.....	29th to 31st January and 2nd to 6th February 1890.
12	"Burdwán Sanjibani" ...	Burdwan	302	28th January 1890.
13	"Chandra Vilásh" ...	Berhampore	250	
14	"Cháruvartá" ...	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	27th ditto.
15	"Chattal Gazette" ...	Chittagong	800	
16	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca	1,200	2nd February 1890.
17	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	885	31st January 1890.
18	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur	.....
19	"Garib" ...	Dacca	3,000	
20	"Grambási" ...	Uluberia	800	1st February 1890.
21	"Gaurab" ...	Ditto	.....
22	"Guru Charana" ...	Calcutta	.....
23	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	300	22nd January 1890.
24	"Jagatbási" ...	Calcutta	750	
25	"Murshidábád Patriká" ...	Berhampore	508	
26	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto	350	
27	"Navavibhákar Sádharani" ...	Calcutta	600	3rd February 1890.
28	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore	600	31st January 1890.
29	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kakinia, Rungpore	205	
30	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	500	29th ditto.
31	"Samnya" ...	Ditto	3,806	31st ditto.
32	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	4,000	1st February 1890.
33	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	800	
34	"Sakti" ...	Dacca	.....	28th January 1890.
35	"Santi" ...	Calcutta	3,722	
36	"Saráswat Patra" ...	Dacca	300	
37	"Som Prakásh" ...	Calcutta	1,000	3rd February 1890.
38	"Srimanta Saudagár" ...	Ditto	.....
39	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	.....	31st January 1890.
40	"Sulabha Samáchar o Kusadaha" ...	Ditto	800	
41	"Surabhi o Patáka" ...	Chandernagore	700	30th ditto.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<i>Daily.</i>				
42	"Dainik o Samáchár Chandriká" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	2nd to 6th February 1890.
43	"Samvád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	800	31st January, 1st and 3rd to 6th February 1890.
44	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	300	31st January, 1st and 4th to 6th February 1890.
45	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Ditto ...	500	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
46	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	.....	3rd February 1890.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
47	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samachár Patrika." ...	Darjeeling ...	20	
48	"Kshatriya Pratiká" ...	Patna ...	200	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
49	"Aryávarta" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	25th January and 1st February 1890.
50	"Behar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore ...	.....
51	"Bhárat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	1,653	23rd and 30th January 1890.
52	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ...	Ditto ...	500	20th and 27th January 1890.
53	"Uchit Baktá" ...	Ditto ...	4,500	
54	"Hindi Samáchár" ...	Bhagulpore ...	1,000	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
55	"Jám-Jahán-numá" ...	Calcutta ...	250	31st January 1890.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
56	"Aftal Alum Arrah" ...	Arrah ...	300	
57	"Akhbar Tusdiq-i-Hind" ...	Calcutta ...	.....
58	"Anis" ...	Patna ...	.....
59	"Gauhur" ...	Calcutta ...	196	20th ditto.
60	"Sharaf-ul-Akbar" ...	Behar ...	150	
61	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipore ...	.....	27th ditto.
62	"Akhbar i-Darusaltanat" ...	Calcutta ...	340	
63	"Raisul-Akhbari-Moorshidabad" ...	Murshidabad ...	.....
URIA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
64	"Asha" ...	Cuttack ...	.....
65	"Taraka and Subhavártá" ...	Ditto ...	.....
66	"Pradíp" ...	Ditto ...	.....
67	"Samyabadi" ...	Ditto ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
68	"Dipaka" ...	Cuttack ...	.....
69	"Utkal Dípiká" ...	Ditto ...	444	
70	"Samvad Váhika" ...	Balasore ...	205	
71	"Urya and Navasamvád" ...	Ditto ...	600	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
72	"Silchar" ...	Silchar ...	500	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
73	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	450	27th ditto.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

The *Bhārat Mitra*, of the 23rd January, says that one evening about a week ago three native clerks passing by the Chowringhee Gate of Fort William were asked by six Europeans to pay some money, and on their refusing to do so, were attacked by the latter. Two of them ran away, and the third was caught hold of, and after a search was severely beaten. When his friends came up again they found him lying insensible. The name of the gentleman who was beaten is Baboo Nirmala Chandra Nath, resident of Bakulbagan Road, Bhowanipore.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 23rd, 1890.

2. The *Sanjivani*, of the 1st February, says that the morality of the Calcutta boys is rapidly deteriorating. They show no respect to their parents or teachers, and, what is more to be regretted, they are every day committing crimes of a most hateful character. Some time ago a teacher of the City College was severely hurt with a knife at the instance of a boy of his class whom he had chastised. It transpired, in the course of the enquiry that followed, that some students were induced by an offer of sweetmeats and liquor to commit the crime. The delinquents, however, were let off upon their confessing their crime and apologising for it. Again, the other day, a student, Surendra Krishna Deb by name, charged some other boys with threatening to kill him unless he consented to submit his person to a most hateful use at their hands. In this case also an apology was considered enough, and the guilty boys were allowed to escape unpunished. But considering that such occurrences are becoming more and more frequent, the criminals in the next case that comes before the courts should not be suffered to escape so easily. It is high time that the police should take steps to disperse a band of immoral boys, whose place of meeting is in a lane near the office of this paper, south of College Square. They have been seen to drag little boys into their meeting house for immoral purposes. The Police have been again and again informed of these immoral acts, but they seem to take no notice of them. It has also come to the notice of the writer that these wicked boys are endeavouring to induce a boy of the well-known Tagore family of this city to take to evil courses. Perhaps Mr. Lambert's ignorance of these matters is the reason why the police have not yet exerted themselves to extirpate this wicked band of school-boys.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 1st, 1890.

3. The same paper, referring to the acquittal by the High Court of Srinath Sunri and others, inhabitants of Satmoni in the district of Bankoora, who had been convicted on a charge of having received stolen property by Mr. Place, Acting Judge of Midnapore, takes severe notice of the conduct of the police in this case, and says that the three brothers, who are very quiet people and were quite innocent of the crime charged against them, would have been undone by the machinations of the police, if they had not possessed the means of appealing to the High Court against the sentence of the Sessions Judge. It has become necessary to reform the police system, as the unlimited power now placed in their hands, if abused, may be productive of any amount of mischief to the people. And the sufferings of the people owing to the machinations of the police have in fact already become unbearable.

SANJIVANI.

The Police in the case of Srinath Sunri and others in Midnapore.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

4. The *Sar Sudhānidhi*, of the 20th January, says that the present high scale of court fees, together with the other concomitant expenses attending a civil

The cost of law suits.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
Jan. 20th, 1890.

suit, prevents poor and middle class people from expecting justice from the present Government.

SAKTI,
Jan. 28th, 1890.

5. The *Sakti*, of the 28th January, referring to the transfer of Baboo Jagatdurlabh Basak, Deputy Magistrate, from Narail to the Sudder station of Cuttack, remarks that, considering his offence, the punishment should have been severer.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,
Jan. 30th, 1890.

6. The *Surabhi-o-Patáká*, of the 30th January, says that the scenes of the *Nildarpan* drama are being re-enacted in the Magura and Jhenidah sub-divisions of the Jessore district. The writer has been hearing for some months past of the oppressive proceedings of the indigo-planters in those sub-divisions. The oppression has reached its climax since the arrival there of Mr. Luson, whose name must be familiar to everybody. It is no wonder that reprimand should not have had any effect whatever on a man of Mr. Luson's temper. It is rather to be feared that it has only made his impetuous nature still more impetuous, and he is making the inhabitants of Magura and Jhenidah feel the spleen which he was not allowed to vent against the inhabitants of Meherpore. Government has acted very unwisely in bringing back to Bengal so soon an officer of the type of Mr. Luson.

It is said that Mr. Luson is sending to *hajut* every ryot against whom the planters of the Magura and Jhenidah sub-divisions are making any complaint. The easiest way of compelling the ryots to cultivate indigo is to send them to prison. The writer is not aware whether Mr. Luson is intimately related in any way to the planters of those sub-divisions; but the frequent institution of suits against the ryots by the planters since his arrival, and his issuing warrants instead of summonses against them for the purpose of sending them to *hajut*, make it clear that he has some intimate relation with them. The *Nildarpan* describes how those monsters in human form, Wood and Rogue, contrived to fill the *hajut* with ryots in such a way that a proposal had to be made for enlarging it. And that is exactly what has now happened in Magura and Jhenidah. In one day Mr. Luson sent 35 ryots to *hajut*. The Court Inspector represented to Mr. Luson that there was not accommodation in the *hajut* for so many persons, but Mr. Luson took no notice of that representation. The name of Shiraj-ud-daulah is written in dark characters in history on account of the Black Hole massacre; and do those men enhance the glory of the English Government who reproduce in a miniature form that dark proceeding of Shiraj? Every one who has any knowledge of the mofussil knows how small the mofussil *hajuts* are, and it is therefore easy to imagine how horrible it is to coop up 30 to 35 persons in those narrow dungeons. And yet an enlightened officer of an enlightened Government can do this easily and fearlessly near the metropolis of the Empire. The writer holds over details of the oppressions which Mr. Luson is committing amongst the ryots. The Bengal Government will know all about the matter if it watches Mr. Luson's proceedings, and it is hoped that it will soon take steps to put a stop to this re-enacting of the scenes of the *Nildarpan*.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 1st, 1890.

7. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 1st February, writing from Jhenidah, says that during the eight days, from the 16th to the 24th January, that Mr. Luson held his court in Jhenidah, the following cases, among others, were tried by him:—

(1)—On the 17th, a man named Tahir Jeardar was summarily convicted for theft of *pulses* and sentenced to six weeks' rigorous imprisonment, although he produced documentary evidence to show that the plants stood on his own soil, and although he prayed for a local investigation.

- (2)—On the same date, two other persons were convicted and fined Rs. 40 each for damage done by cutting away indigo with *pulses*.
- (3)—On the 18th, a ryot brought forward a complaint to the effect that his hut had been burnt down by the indigo planters' men. The Joint-Magistrate after making local investigation declared in his judgment that some neighbouring ryots had set fire to the hut.
- (4)—On the 20th, a number of potters were indicted on the charge of having caused damage to indigo plants by digging away the earth from their roots, and of having been members of an unlawful assembly; but these men having confessed that they committed the offences at the instigation of others, and having stated that they had compromised with the planters, they were fined Re. 1 each.
- (5)—On the same date, six persons sent up by the police on a charge of theft of *pulses*, were sent to *hajut*.
- (6)—On the 23rd, two suits were instituted on behalf of the ryots against the Dewan of Bijulia and others for causing indigo to be sown by force; but the suits were dismissed and not even summonses were issued.
- (7)—On the 24th, a man named Panchu Biswas, living within the Madhupur concern was punished under section 426 of the Indian Penal Code, for damage done to indigo, with three months' rigorous imprisonment, that being the longest term of imprisonment that could be inflicted under that section.
- (8)—On the same date, 16 persons, some of them respectable people, were brought up on a warrant, and as there was no room for them in the lock-up, they were released on a bail of Rs. 100 each.

The lock-up of this sub-division is so small that it cannot contain more than six or seven prisoners. But since Mr. Lusson's arrival, it is being made to contain sixteen or seventeen prisoners. These prisoners have to suffer from cold, as it is not probable that this small lock-up possesses the requisite supply of blankets; and Mr. Lusson himself being the Superintendent of the subsidiary jail, these poor prisoners can do nothing but suffer in silence.

All this has created a panic among the ryots, for they are not sure that any of them will not be any moment thrown into prison. Nor are their fears groundless, for the planters' men are continually threatening them with ruin.

Many of the principal ryots, and even some zemindars, have sided with the planters; and the ryots have, as their last resource, mustered courage from despair. They have become desperate, and their number is not small. So there is no knowing what the result of further oppression may be. The majority of the ryots of Jhenidah are Mussulmans, and it is well known that Mussulmans have a certain national feeling binding them together. If they band themselves together, the result will be something very disastrous.

8. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Julpaiguri, says that the creation of the benches of Honorary Magistrates at Dam-dim and Bataikul is calculated to do harm. Both the places are centres of tea industry. Before the creation of these benches, all cases between the planters and the coolies used to be decided at the head-quarters, where the coolies had chances of justice being done to them. But this was intolerable to the planters, and through their exertions the new Benches have been created, upon

The new benches of Honorary Magistrates in the Julpaiguri district.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 1st, 1890.

which so many as eight of their own number have been appointed to sit. One fails to see the necessity for the creation of these Benches. Sir Stuart Bayley is requested to reconsider the question of the advisability of placing the poor helpless coolies in this way at the mercy of the planters. If His Honour calls for the papers of the cases between the planters and the coolies, and looks into them carefully, he will at once see which party is really at fault.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 1st, 1890.

9. The same correspondent of the same paper says that the Deputy Commissioner being on tour, the charge of the district has devolved on the Deputy Magistrate Mr. McGavin. The following is a list of the duties which this officer has to discharge single-handed:—

- (1). Receiving new petitions and passing summary orders thereon.
- (2). Keeping charge of the treasury.
- (3). Registering documents.
- (4). Collecting the road cess.
- (5). Disposing of about 10 cases every day under Act X of 1859.
- (6). Trying about four criminal cases every day.

It is impossible for one man to do so much work. Moreover, as the treasury work requires to be done with great care, it takes up a good deal of time, and the Deputy Magistrate has therefore sometimes to take up cases inside the double lock, where pleaders and mukhtears have no access, and the parties therefore go practically unrepresented. The responsibility for this lies not with Mr. McGavin, but with the Government, which ought to arrange for the transaction of business at Jalpaiguri in a way which will not compel Mr. McGavin for want of time to try cases within the double lock.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 2nd, 1890.

10. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 2nd February, does not consider it quite reasonable that the Government of India, which declares the accounts of the income and expenditure of the Civil Courts to be very complicated, and which says that the estimate of that income and expenditure is only an approximate estimate, should still declare that that estimate may be accepted as correct. How can the estimate be accepted as correct if it is not really so? There would have been some means of judging its correctness if the principle on which it has been prepared had been made known to the public.

The District Judges are in many districts employed chiefly in the administration of criminal justice. Their salaries cannot in such cases be charged to the civil side. But the Government Resolution on the subject is silent on this point.

The result of the enquiry bears out the statement made by Sir Richard Garth and Mr. Evans that there is a large saving in the Judicial Department. Considering, therefore, that many people cannot have recourse to the law on account of the prohibitive cost of law-suits, and that Government ought not to make a profit by the sale of justice, it is to be desired that Government should consider the question of reducing the court-fees.

The number of law suits is increasing so fast every day that any loss which may be suffered at present from the reduction of Court-fees is sure to be soon made up.

(d)—Education.

SAKTI,
Jan. 28th, 1890.

11. The *Sakti*, of the 28th January, referring to the advice of the Vice-Chancellor to the graduates of the University that they should cultivate the study of their mother tongue, says that the Vice-Chancellor's suggestion that literature may be taken up as a lucrative

The Bengali language in the Calcutta University.

profession, when all other means of livelihood fail, cannot be acted upon in this unfortunate country where even the few who have taken to literature as a profession have to depend solely on the composition of school-books for their subsistence. And not even this one resource of an Indian author can be safely depended upon, for the educational authorities follow a very narrow-minded policy in encouraging school-books. The little Bengali that is learnt in the Entrance Examination standard is of no practical use. And every attempt made to introduce that language into the higher examinations of the University has proved abortive. It would, therefore, have been gratifying to everybody if the Vice-Chancellor had, whilst giving his advice, talked about giving the Bengali language a more respectable place in the University examinations. That young educated natives do not feel inclined to study their mother-tongue is (1) because Government does not hold that tongue in esteem; (2) because it has no influence in the University; and (3) because it is being constantly abused by the unlettered portion of the community. It is undoubtedly in the power of the Vice-Chancellor to remedy this evil and to make the study of Bengali look more useful in the eyes of the educated youths of the country than it has hitherto looked. And he ought to do his best to further this end.

It is true that books of fiction find ready purchasers, but this is chiefly among the superficially educated ladies in the zenana. Books of a higher order can only be read by educated men, and so long as the Bengali language does not assert its importance, such books are not likely to command a large sale. And what the fate of the language will consequently be can be easily guessed.

12. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 31st January, says that only those should be elected Fellows of the Calcutta University who are well educated and who take a lively interest in education. But this principle is not observed in the appointment of Fellows. Those who have acquired distinction by their writings in any of the languages spoken in India should also be made Fellows; and natives who have carried a reputation as English writers should be similarly taken into the University. The proposal for the election of Fellows from among the M. As. of the Calcutta University is a good one, and the Graduate's Association should be entrusted with the election.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR.
Jan. 31st, 1890.

13. The *Samaya*, of the 31st January, must freely admit that Justice Gurudas Banerji fully deserves the high praise which Lord Lansdowne bestowed upon him. There are, it is true, two other natives fitted by their abilities and acquirements for the Vice-Chancellorship of the University. But one of them, Dr. Rajendralal Mitra, would probably have declined the office on account of his age and infirmities, and the appointment of the other, Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, would not have been viewed with satisfaction by all sections of the community. The appointment of Justice Gurudas has given universal satisfaction.

SAMAYA,
Jan. 31st, 1890.

The writer heartily supports Lord Lansdowne's proposal to reduce the number of Fellows. Justice Banerji's Convocation speech, though on the old and worn-out subject of education, acquired a freshness from the novel way in which topics were handled. The speech was fine, weighty and instructive.

14. The *Dainik-o-Samāchār Chandrikā*, of the 5th February, is glad that the *Sanjivani* notices with sorrow the growing immorality and spirit of insubordination of native boys (see Report on Native Papers for this week, paragraph 2). But are not the friends of the Editor of the *Sanjivani*, that is to say, the Brahmos of the Sadharan Brahmo Samaj and Baboo Surendranath Banerjee themselves mainly responsible for this evil? Do not Baboo

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 5th, 1890.

Surendranath and the Brahmos of the Sadharan Samaj teach Bengali boys the doctrines of liberty and equality, and do they not counsel them to judge for themselves in matters of religion and morality and to abandon their parents for the purpose of joining their own church? Boys deviate from the right path when they cease to accept solutions of moral and religious questions from their parents.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

SARSUDHANIDHI,
Jan. 20th, 1890.

15. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 20th January, referring to the Durbhunga temple affair, says that it has been surprised to hear of this act of sacrilege while it was still awaiting the decision of Government in the similar affair at Sambal-pore. Has the reign of an Arungzebe or a Shah Alum come back again? And can the Government after such things go on proclaiming publicly that it is its policy not to interfere in the religion of the people?

SARSUDHANIDHI,
Jan. 27th, 1890.

16. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 27th January, thinks that unless the new Municipal Act is revised, the distress of the townspeople will be very great. The few provisions of the Act which have already been put into operation have struck terror into their hearts. At Barabazar a certain gentleman who wanted to build a house on his land submitted his plan to the Municipality. But the Municipality ordered the plan to be altered so as to leave an open space of at least sixteen feet in front. Now, the land measures only forty feet, and is it possible to leave so many as sixteen feet open?

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 29th, 1890.

17. The *Sahachar*, of the 29th January, says that when four of the Commissioners of the Durbhunga Municipality requested the Vice-Chairman not to do anything in the temple affair till the matter had been discussed in a general meeting of the Commissioners, it was clearly the duty of that officer to act upon that suggestion. But instead of doing this, he only forwarded the letter written by those Commissioners to the Chairman for orders and proceeded to demolish the temple. Moulvi Ahmad is a son of the distinguished Bengal Pleader, Nawab Amir Ali, and an educated Bengali. He should have known that the matter was a serious one, and he too has been guilty of neglect of duty by sitting with closed eyes when the Hindus asked his help in the matter. The writer has never seen so lawless and barbarous an act as this demolition of the Durbhunga temple. What never occurred under any Mussulman Badshah has taken place under Queen Victoria. In the face of the protests of the people and in utter disregard of the remonstrances of the Commissioners, the foolish Vice-Chairman of the Municipality set himself to destroy the temple as if the earth would otherwise go to wreck and ruin. It is no wonder that a strong agitation should be made on the subject. The people of Durbhunga sent telegrams to the Commissioner and the Lieutenant-Governor, and the writer is glad that the Commissioner has arrived at Durbhunga.

The District Magistrate, Mr. Beadon, who is a son of the late Lieutenant-Governor Sir Cecil Beadon, arrived at Durbhunga when the work of destruction had been completed, and naively declared that everything had been done according to his order, as if the matter was of no consequence at all. The action of the Vice-Chairman in the temple affair was considered at a municipal meeting in which the officer whose conduct was in question was himself allowed to vote. If he had not been allowed to vote the opinion of the meeting would have gone against him, and the Municipality would have been spared the expenses of his defence in the law-suit which is about to be instituted against him. The writer, however, is not astonished at this, for

wherever the Magistrate is the Chairman of a Municipality such things are sure to take place.

The root of the mischief is Mr. Beadon, who is an Englishman only in name, and who has spent all his life, except a few years, in India. Going to extremes in any matter is not a new thing with him. When he was Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh, he very badly treated an English military officer of the name of Captain Playfair, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the Captain could escape from his hands. It is no wonder that an officer of this type should try to create division between Hindus and Mussulmans. Moulvie Ahmad is a young man, and the Vice-Chairman is an old and prejudiced fellow. They are not the men who would be likely to be bold enough to oppose the Magistrate in anything. But the writer would nevertheless say nothing worse about them than that they are fools. It is hoped that Hindus and Mussulmans will act discreetly. The policy of creating division among the people is not a new one with the English Government. The Hindus long ago saw through this trick; and the really educated men among the Mussulmans have also seen through it. It has now become the business of many Englishmen to show partiality to Mussulmans with the object of creating between them and the Hindus, a division similar to that which separates the Protestants from the Catholics in Ireland, and thereby keeping both the races in a state of weak dependence upon the paramount power. "Indian brethren! You should all under these circumstances be of one mind."

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,
Jan. 30th, 1890.

18. The *Surabhi-o-Pataká*, of the 30th January, says that time was when the English held up to the gaze of Hindus dark pictures of the Mussulman character, which led to Shiraj-ud-doulah, the boy Nawab of sixteen, being taken for a huge monster. At that time the English would say to Hindus in season and out of season:—"Look ye Hindus, Mussulmans are your enemies. Never trust them. They interfere with your religion, break the images of your gods and goddesses, violate the chastity of your women, and under their rule your lives and property became most insecure on account of the prevalence of dacoity" But the truth will out sooner or later, and Hindus have now been disabused of this impression by the writings of Englishmen of the nobler type. The Hindus now see that the English accounts of the Mussulman character were overcoloured. They feel that Mussulmans are their brethren in whose victory lies also their own victory. They know that the money which Mussulmans will earn will remain within India.

The effect of this disabusing of Hindus in regard to Mussulmans has been that the baser sort of Englishmen have changed their tune. They now say—"Look ye Mussulmans, you are on the point of ruin. Hindus have taken everything from you. You will no longer obtain appointments under Government. Hindus have monopolised all those appointments. But if you soon petition Government, we will show our generosity by giving you good appointments, whether you have any merit or not." But Hindus, who have now been disabused, do not look upon the appointment of Mussulmans to Government service as a wrong done to themselves. And there are many things to show that Mussulmans in general, not to take into account the few who have been seduced, are not deluded by these words.

Englishmen now feel that soothing words alone will not do, and that even the snatching of food from the mouth of the Hindu will be of no avail. They therefore now make use of subtler means to create division between Hindus and Mussulmans. Everybody supposed the Durbhunga temple affair to be the work of the Mussulman Vice-Chairman and the Mussulman Joint-Magistrate, and their Mussulman subordinates. But the District Magistrate, Mr. Beadon, has now taken the responsibility of the whole

affair upon himself. The affair is not, therefore, the result of any difference between Hindus and Mussulmans. The mischief dwells only in the hearts of the English.

The writer's suspicion that some diplomatic Englishman was at the bottom of the temple affair has now been confirmed.

Mr. Beadon must be labouring under some physical infirmity. Let him therefore be at first granted leave for some time, and then transferred to some other place on a higher pay.

SAMAYA,
Jan. 31st, 1890.

19. The *Samaya*, of the 31st January, says that it has never seen an occurrence like the demolition of the Durbhunga temple. The writer knows of no

instance since the assumption of the direct government of India by the Queen, in which a Hindu temple has been destroyed by heretics in broad daylight, and in the presence of Hindus. The Queen announced in her Proclamation that she would not make any distinction of creed, and would in no way wound the feelings of her Indian subjects. And this is the way in which her officers observe her pledges.

The writer does not hold the English Government itself responsible for this temple affair, nor does he mean to say that the occurrence of such things is desired by it. But those officers who do such things should know that their actions may produce great mischief, and may even lead to the subversion of British rule.

Mr. Beadon has acted foolishly like a boy in justifying his own conduct. He says there was no old temple on the spot, and that it is Baboo Iswari Singh who first built a temple there. But supposing it to be true, what does it matter? The question here is, not whether the temple was old or new, but whether it was right to demolish it. Has not a new temple the sanctity of an old one in the eyes of Hindus?

The writer is glad that Mussulmans combined with Hindus in the meeting lately held at Durbhunga to censure the action of the Municipality in this affair, and he cannot but thank the Lieutenant-Governor and the Commissioner for their prompt enquiries in this matter.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 2nd, 1890.

20. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 2nd February, says that no member has been elected to represent the Sabhar thana on the Dacca District Board. But the

The Sabhar thana unrepresented on the Dacca District Board.

number of zemindars and talukdars paying the road cess is larger in the Sabhar thana than in any other thana under the Dacca District Board. It is therefore hoped that Government will nominate at least one member to represent Sabhar and another to represent Harirampore on the Dacca District Board.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 1st, 1890.

21. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 1st February, writing from Julpaiguri, says that in the survey of the

Survey of Government estates in Jalpaiguri.

Government khas mehals that is now taking place, attempts are being made to ruin the owners of holdings by including the lots of very poor ryots in those mehals under Act XVI. Such attempts on the part of private zemindars would have met with severe censure; but who is to blame Government for its misdeeds?

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

HINDU RANJIK,
Jan. 22nd, 1890.

22. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 22nd January, referring to the dilapidated condition of the Maldah road in

The Maldah road in the Rajshahye district.

the Rajshahye district, says that, considering the importance of this road as the only

means of communication between the great trade centres of Nawabgunge, Godágari, and Sultangunge, its miserable condition should attract the notice of the authorities. In the flood of 1887 the road sustained great injury, and the embankment to the west of the *kátchári*, which was about three miles in length, was completely swept away. And now in every rainy season, in the absence of the embankment, the road and the villages bordering upon it are completely flooded, and traffic is suspended for some months. Not only this, but the whole country around being under water for a long time, vegetables decompose and spread disease among the people. Several other parts of the road and some bridges upon it are in a bad condition, and require immediate repairing.

Now, the question is, where are the necessary funds to come from for repairing it. The District Board requested the Lieutenant-Governor to advance money from the Provincial exchequer for the purposes of these repairs, but the request was not granted. If the repairs are undertaken, the Board must pay all the expenses itself. Now, the annual proceeds of the road cess, deducting cost of establishment, are Rs. 56,000. Of this amount Rs. 6,000 goes to the reserve fund, Rs. 4,800 to aid steamer communication, Rs. 7,000 to meet the village road expenses, Rs. 1,000 to meet drainage expenses and other sanitary purposes, and Rs. 1,000 to meet petty expenses, making a total of Rs. 18,800; so there is left only Rs. 37,200 for constructing and repairing roads. It has been ascertained that the repairing of the existing roads and bridges, &c., costs not less than Rs. 27,000 annually, leaving a balance of a little over Rs. 10,000 for the construction of new roads. But considering the great want of communications in this district, Rs. 10,000 is too small a sum for the purpose. And even if the whole of this sum were devoted to this one Maldah road only, neglecting the other roads, it would not be enough, because a thorough repair would cost not less than Rs. 20,000. And then, after it has been repaired, it will require Rs. 3,000 annually to keep it in good order. But no one will advise the Board to attend to this one road only to the neglect of all the other roads. The only alternative for the Board is therefore to leave the matter entirely in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor for a proper decision; and as the Lieutenant-Governor has already advised it to raise money by loan for repairing this road, the Board ought to borrow Rs. 20,000. But how will the Board pay the interest on that loan? It can do so only by reducing its allotments for other roads; and seeing the great and immediate necessity that exists for repairing the Maldah road, this is the best the Board can do under the circumstances.

23. A correspondent of the same paper writing from Talanda, in the Rajshahye district, says that the road known

The road known as the "Manda line" in the Rajshahye district.

as the Manda line, and running from Rajshahye to Nowgan, and passing by some important

villages and hâts, is in a very bad condition. The level of the road being lower than that of the surrounding country, it serves as an outlet for all the water of these parts, and this does great injury to the crops. The whole road remains under water during the rainy season, and boats have to ply on it. Another defect of the road is that it is very circuitous, and is therefore of little use to passengers, who generally take the shortest cut. Another drawback is the want of bridges and ferries at several points, notably the following:—

- (1) Duarir Ghat, west of Nawbata.
- (2) Chaukir Ghat, south of Tanore.
- (3) Nabai Ghat, north of Talanda.
- (4) Chanberiar Ghat, east of Malsira.

HINDU RANJIKA,
Jan. 22nd, 1890.

(5) Pothar Ghat, west of Kaligram.

(6) Atrair Ghat, east of Manda.

It is hoped that the Magistrate of Rajshahye will try to remove these complaints of the people.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1890.

24. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 28th January, complains that the roads along the two embankments on the two sides of the Damodar have been blocked in many parts by the growth of trees. The correspondent has observed such obstruction in the part between Chanchai and Burdwan, in the part between Manikhati and Amirpore, and also at Kalinagar, Fatepore, Paller and other places. The jungle has been cut at different places at the cost of Government, but that sort of cutting does no good whatever. The chief officers of the embankments are requested to clear the roads.

The roads along the embankments of the Damodar.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

25. Another correspondent of the same paper says that the road from Paratal to near Harala is as it were the gateway of 30 to 35 villages, and it is the only road by which carriages and carts can come to Paratal from the Maimari station. But not having been repaired for a long time, the road is covered with prickly shrubs which have completely stopped traffic upon it. Hopeful replies were received from the District Board to petitions for the repair of the road; but no steps have yet been taken to repair it.

The road from Paratal to Harala in the Burdwan district.

BANGABASI,
Feb. 1st, 1890.

26. The *Bangabasi*, of the 1st February, referring to the projected railway lines in the Rungpore district, says that the scheme owes its origin chiefly to the exertions of Babu Ashutosh Lahiri, the District Engineer; but the effect which will be produced by these railway lines will not be wholly good. Already the cultivation of paddy has decreased in that district, and when these lines come into existence, jute will become the staple produce of the district. This may be a desirable change judged by the principles of English political economy, but it will constitute an alarming outlook from the standpoint of the country itself. Did the members of the District Board carefully consider the consequences that will follow from the construction of the proposed railway lines?

The projected railway lines in the Rungpore district.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 3rd, 1890.

27. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 3rd February, referring to the proposal that the Dacca District Board should itself construct the Dacca-Manickgunge tramway, says that such works are done better and at a smaller cost by private companies than by public bodies. Moreover, the District Board would be slighting the principle of Self-Government if it undertook the work itself. Self-Government is intended to teach people self-reliance, and this object would be frustrated by the Board executing the project itself. The best thing to do would be to form a private company and place the work in its hands. And it would be all the better if the Board could secure a Government guarantee for it, for capitalists would then feel no hesitation in advancing money. This scheme, if it can be given effect to, will set a wholesome example of self-reliance to the entire country, and Self-Government will gain in popularity.

The proposed Dacca-Manickgunge tramway.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 3rd, 1890.

28. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 3rd February, says that the road from Santipore to Kishnagur is in a very bad state, as it has not been repaired for the last two or three years. If it is not repaired for a few years more, there will remain no traces of its existence. It is really a matter of sorrow and shame that so important a public road should remain unrepaired, under the rule of Sir Steuart Bayley, who has the welfare of his people so much at heart, merely because its repair will

The road from Santipore to Kishnagur.

cost a little money. Mr. Glazier, the Magistrate of Nuddea, is requested to earn the blessings of the local public by repairing the road under the sanction of Government.

(h)—General.

29. The *Samaya*, of the 31st January, has already said that in the next budget the expenditure shown will be in excess of the income, and the *Indian Daily News* says that four or five crores of rupees will have to be borrowed to meet this deficit. The excess expenditure will be incurred for the frontier defences from a groundless fear of Russian invasion and for the war in Burma, whose conquest will not benefit Indians in the least. The interest on the money which will be borrowed will have to be provided either by levying a new tax or by enhancing an existing tax. The prospect of excess expenditure curdles the blood of the Indians.

SAMAYA,
Jan. 31st, 1890.

30. The *Bangabasi*, of the 1st February, referring to the recent Government resolution on the subject of famine relief by the District Boards, remarks that it is a bad policy that Government is going to adopt, considering that it has not yet made any provision to enable the Boards to meet the increased expenditure. The Boards are to divert their funds to a work which does not properly fall within their sphere of action, and no better plan could have been devised to make the Boards unpopular. Were such objects in view in granting the people the right of Local Self-Government? It is very good policy indeed to make the District Boards bear the burden of famine relief, neglecting their proper work, while Government goes on spending the proceeds of the famine relief tax according to its will and pleasure, violating its solemn promises to the contrary.

BANGABASI,
Feb. 1st, 1890.

31. The same paper says that for some months past the ryots of Magura and Jhenidah, in the Jessore district, have been at variance with the local indigo planters. At the commencement of this affair, and even before it, the subdivisions were in the charge of native sub-divisional officers, and for some time the whole district was under a native Magistrate. But Government has recently changed its policy, and a European Magistrate has been sent to Jessore, while the sub-divisions of Magura and Jhenidah have been placed under a European civilian. It is not hard to guess that this affair of the ryots and planters is the secret of this change. The writer does not mean to say that the European Magistrates will be biassed in favour of the planters: still the fact remains that the ryots have been struck with terror by Mr. Luson's proceedings. Two hundred ryots have been within a short time served with warrants at the instance of the planters' men. There can be no doubt that proceedings of this kind will overawe the ryots into submission; but they will as surely increase the stigma attaching to British rule. The higher authorities of Government know whether they should care for its reputation or not; but the writer thinks that he has done his duty as a journalist by telling them how the good name of Government will suffer in consequence of such proceedings.

BANGABASI.

32. The *Sanjivani*, of the 1st February, referring to the recent order of Government that each clerk in its service should be supplied with not more than two nibs a month, remarks sarcastically that Government would do well to require its clerks to supply themselves with pen and ink at their own cost, and the saving so made will enable it to satisfy the demands of its uncovenanted civil servants.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 1st, 1890.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 1st, 1890.

33. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Assam, contradicts the allegations made against Mr. Darrah, Mr. Darrah of the Assam Agricultural Department. Director of the Assam Agricultural Department, in a previous issue of this paper (see Report on Native Papers for week ending 25th January, paragraph 31).

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Feb. 3rd, 1890.

34. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 3rd February, is glad that a Sanitary Board is going to be established for the improvement of the health of the districts of Howrah, Hooghly, and the 24-Pergunnahs. This Board will assist the municipalities in improving public health within their respective jurisdictions, and will, in that view, attend mainly to drainage, and the supply of good drinking water. But there are other things which should be equally attended to; for instance, clearing low jungle which obstructs ventilation in the villages and admitting light and air into brooks and tanks overhung with thick vegetation. These are important measures, but are not referred to in the Government resolution. The writer therefore calls attention to them.

The drainage of the 30 miles between Howrah and Tribeni ought to be attended to at once like the drainage of the 30 miles between Halisahar and Calcutta. The villages between Howrah and Tribeni, on the western bank of the Hooghly river, which were once most prosperous places have been desolated by fever and cholera; and the sooner Government sets itself to improve the health of that tract of country the better.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI.

The Bengal Administration Report for 1888-89.

35. The same paper points out the following errors in the Bengal Administration report for 1888-89.

The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, which was known to Government as one paper last year, has been spoken of as two different papers this year.

The Report also speaks of a Brahmo Marriage Act. But the writer knows of no Act bearing that name. He only knows that a certain Act was proposed to be called by that name, but the proposal was not carried out on account of the objection made to it by the Adi Brahmo Samaj. But since that Act has been so named in the Government's Administration Report, all persons who do not follow any of the religions popularly recognised in India must now be called Brahmos, and Mr. Beveridge, who married under that Act, must also be called a Brahmo.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI.

36. The same paper, referring to the rumour that a surplus of one crore and twenty lakhs of rupees will be shown in the next budget, says that this surplus is not

The next budget. to be counted upon, as official accounts are often purposely made to show a fallacious financial soundness: witness the Strachey budget during the administration of Lord Lytton. But even if there be a real surplus, all that money and much more will be swallowed by the Chin-Lushai wars. Again, there is a proposal for procuring rifles of a new design and other military equipments at a cost of eighty lakhs of rupees. And if, over and above all this, the outturn of opium does not prove satisfactory, and there is a slight rise in the exchange duty, the anticipated surplus will turn into a deficit.

SAMVAD PURNACHAN-
DRODAYA,
Feb. 4th, 1890.

37. The *Samvād Purnachandrodaya*, of the 4th February, referring to the recent Resolution of Government regarding famine relief by District and Local Boards, says that, if the Boards are to spend their funds in famine relief, then, considering that famines are now of yearly occurrence, where will the money for the performance of the proper functions of those bodies come from? Will Government pay money for those objects? The writer fails to see the propriety of this resolution, unless it is meant to be the prelude to a new tax being imposed. If Government had not misapplied the famine relief fund,

for which the license-tax is being still levied, the new burden of relieving famine would not have fallen on the Boards.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

38. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 3rd February, writes as follows on the Bill to amend the Indian Factories Act:—

The Bill to amend the Indian Factories Act.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 3rd, 1890.

The Governor-General, in his despatch of 1889 to the Secretary of State for India, wrote, in consultation with the Members of his Council, that Indian Factories not being worked under high pressure like English factories, His Excellency saw no necessity for introducing the English Factory law into India, and that there being little competition in this country, the labourers in the Indian factories work leisurely and find themselves more comfortably placed than other labourers and the labourers in England. That the Government of India took this view of the matter is because the Viceroy and the Members of his Council clearly saw that this attempt to introduce the English Factory law into this country had its origin in the earnest desire of the Manchester manufacturers to discourage manufacturing enterprise in this country. If the Viceroy had got the power, His Excellency would certainly have protested more openly against these improper attempts to ruin the new manufacturing industry of India. He would then have probably expressed himself as follows:—

“Let the English Factory law apply to English factories, and let the Indian Factory law apply to Indian factories. It is sheer selfishness to force the English factory law upon India. It is for us, rulers of India, to decide whether any change is necessary in the factory law of this country. At present, no such change is necessary.”

But there are not among Englishmen any who can think and talk so plainly and fearlessly, and not even an English Viceroy's sense of justice is strong enough to prevent his partiality for his own countrymen from injuring the interests of the people of India. The Viceroy cannot, therefore, entirely disregard Manchester. It is true the proposed Factory law will not give to Manchester and the other manufacturing people of England all that they desire; but it will be some gain to them, and they know how to bide their time. Indian Governors are their servants, and they know that they need not be anxious about the complete fulfilment of their desire sooner or later.

The provisions of the new Bill are of a character which will discourage people here from engaging in manufacturing business. In the delusive name of kindness to the factory labourer, the proposed factory law will make factories as expensive as possible. Will the Bradlaughs, the Wedderburns, and the Digbys of the National Congress now come forward to India's rescue?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

39. The *Sahachar*, of the 29th January, says that India had no greater friend than the late Mr. Knight, and there is therefore mourning for him in every house. Who shall deny that Mr. Knight was the head of India in recent times?

The late Editor of the *Statesman*.

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 29th, 1890.

40. The *Surabhi-o-Pataká*, of the 30th January, heartily thanks the Duke of Connaught for the permission he is reported to have given for the enrolment of Parsis as volunteers. The conferring of this right upon the Parsis, who are Indians naturally, awakens the hope that the right will be extended in time to the other Indian races.

The enrolment of Parsis as volunteers.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,
Jan. 30th, 1890.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA.
Jan. 30th, 1890.

41. The same paper says that the contention of Sir Alfred Croft, in his speech at the dinner lately given to Mr. King, at the Town Hall, that as the exchange difficulty was not dreamt of by either the Government or the old uncovenanted officers at the time when the latter agreed to accept pension in Indian money, it is the duty of Government to grant the just demands of this large class of officers in spite of its financial difficulties, reminds it of a story. There was a man who maintained his family by service, and he used to give his wife an ornament at intervals of one or two months. Suddenly the man lost his appointment and was reduced to the necessity of borrowing money for maintaining his family, but he nevertheless continued his supply of ornaments to his better-half. A friend having expostulated with him for this, he replied that it was true that he had lost his appointment, but his wife had not lost hers. Why should, then, the loyal uncovenanted servants of Government suffer on account of the financial difficulties of Government? If Government is pressed for money, let it borrow money or make its native officers pass through a hundred grades before giving them their Rs. 500.

Though the exchange difficulty was not anticipated, it was certainly known that natives were fast becoming fit for appointments in the Uncovenanted Service. And how many are the obstacles placed in the way of their getting those appointments? How many obstacles has Sir Alfred himself placed in the way of the advancement of natives in the Education Department? He has, with the view of keeping down natives, created a filtered Subordinate Educational Service, and in order that able men capable of forcing their way to the grades which are ordinarily occupied by English officers may not enter the Subordinate Educational Service, he has reduced the salary and allowances of the post of Assistant Inspector of Schools, and ruled that natives shall not be at once appointed to the higher grade of the Educational Service on two-thirds salary. The writer will be glad to be convinced by Sir Alfred that these statements are wrong.

SAMAYA,
Jan. 31st, 1890.

42. The *Samaya*, of the 31st January, says that the whole Indian people is overwhelmed with grief at the death of Mr. Knight. His death is a great misfortune to the Indians. The writer cannot find words to express his grief for the sad event. He prays to God for the welfare of Mr. Knight's soul.

SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 31st, 1890.

43. The *Sudhakar*, of the 31st January, says that the late Mr. Robert Knight was a friend of the poor and the oppressed, and a deadly foe of oppression. By his death the Indians have undoubtedly lost a true friend.

BANGABASI,
Feb. 1st, 1890.

44. The *Bangabasi*, of the 1st February, does not know who were present and what took place at the small meeting recently held at Belvedere. But what has transpired about the meeting is sufficient to cause uneasiness. It is said that, with the help and through the exertions of the Lieutenant-Governor and Sir Alfred Croft, a society will be formed which will receive Government aid and will supply cheap yet good literature in this country. This scheme is undertaken as a step towards the moral education of the country. The writer hears that the scheme originated with the Christian missionary Mr. Johnston, and he is afraid that it must have had some such origin.

BANGABASI.

45. The same paper hears that cholera is committing great havoc amongst the people of Nursingdi, Satirpara, Hajipore and Birkpore in the sub-division of Naraingunge in the Dacca district. No medical aid is to be had. Government should direct its attention to the matter.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 1st, 1890.

46. The *Sanjivani*, of the 1st February, referring to the Uncovenanted Civil Service agitation, says that no one calls this agitation libellous or disloyal, but if any such

agitation had been made by Indians, Government would have been pressed to dismiss them from its service,—so vast is the difference between Englishmen and Indians. If Mr. King's efforts on behalf of the Uncovenanted Civil Servants be successful, a few lakhs more of India's money will vanish from its exchequer. But is it not unfair that the men whose field of service lies in India should be paid their salaries and pensions in English coin? If these uncovenanted Europeans consider it a hardship to be paid in Indian coin, they are at liberty to resign; and hundreds of equally qualified men will be found to fill their places. But it is said that the importunities of this class of officers have succeeded in throwing Government off its balance, and Government has agreed to pay them at the rate of 1s. 6d. in the rupee. But that will entail great loss on the Government, and the Indians, who alone will lose by the adoption of this course by Government, should protest against it. Government cannot now, for want of money, supply many wants of the people, and would it not, therefore, be an act of partiality on its part to make the concession asked for by one section of its servants? It is to be hoped that Government will not lose sight of India's interest in giving its English servants their fill.

47. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 3rd February, says that India's chief friend and statesman, Mr. Robert Knight, is

The late Editor of the *Statesman*.

dead, and all India is therefore sorry and dejected. Mr. Knight devoted his life to the good of India. And will Indians do nothing to perpetuate his memory? It is requested that a meeting may soon be held at the Town Hall to provide for a memorial of the man whom all India held in such love and reverence.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 3rd, 1890.

48. The *Navavibhākar Sādhārānī*, of the 3rd February, considers it superfluous to say that the late Mr. Knight was a friend of India. His independence of

The late Editor of the *Statesman*.

spirit, generosity of heart, and extraordinary powers were well-known to everybody. The loss of such a friend is certainly a misfortune to the Indians.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Feb. 3rd, 1890.

49. The *Samvād Purnachandrodaya*, of the 4th February, says that the proposed society for the diffusion of cheap

The proposed society for the diffusion of useful knowledge.

yet good literature throughout India has its sympathy. The exorbitant prices of Indian

books and especially of school-books and stationery used by boys have acted as an obstacle to the spread of education in this country. There is no doubt that the society in question can greatly promote the cause of primary education by the publication of cheap and sound literature.

SAMVAD PURNACHAN-
DRODAYA,
Feb. 4th, 1890.

50. According to the *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 4th February,

The scheme for issuing cheap publications in India.

Mr. Beveridge has rightly said that English education has created here a reading public,

but not a book-buying public. The success of the scheme, proposed by Messrs. Allen and Company, of issuing cheap publications in India with the assistance of Government and the native princes is therefore very doubtful, and the scheme cannot be therefore approved. There will, however, be nothing to object to the scheme if some English publishing firm takes upon itself all the risk of its execution.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
Feb. 4th, 1890.

ASSAM PAPERS.

51. The *Paridarshak*, of the 27th January, says that the Sylhet Municipal budget for the ensuing year was

The Sylhet Municipal Budget.

passed by the casting vote of the Chairman.

And several rate-payers having objected to it, a meeting of the Commissioners was convened on the 23rd January last. But the attendance was very small, the day having been a Brahmo holiday, and notice of the meeting having been given to the Commissioners only on the afternoon

PARIDARSHAK
Jan. 27th, 1890.

of the day preceding the appointed day. Many Commissioners had also left town on the understanding that the budget would come up for consideration towards the end of February, as is prescribed in the law. At the second meeting in question only four Commissioners, besides the Chairman, were present; and all of them had voted for the budget in the first meeting. Under the circumstances, it is easy to guess what came of the protest of the rate-payers.

PARIDARSHAK,
Jan. 27th, 1890.

52. The same paper says that the Extra Assistant Commissioner, Baboo Isan Chandra Patranabis, has been sent as far as Katigara with provisions for the troops engaged in the Chin-Lushai expedition. But the report comes from various quarters that the villagers are being oppressed for provisions. The inhabitants of the villages lying on the route of the army are required to supply provisions, which are not in every case actually wanted.

The Chin-Lushai Expedition.

PARIDARSHAK.

53. The same paper fails to see what good is done by the public *mêlas* of which so much is heard in the mouths of great people. This much is certain that these *mêlas* fatten some few tradesmen and provide entertainments for public servants at the cost of others. The other day a meeting was held for the purpose of raising funds in aid of the Kasimgunge *mêla*, and those who absented themselves, including even poor villagers, have been visited either by the Inspector Mr. Kemp himself, or by the Sub-Inspector, and made to contribute not less than Rs. 2 each. Is it right to raise money by compulsion in order to spend it in amusements?

Public *mêlas*.

PARIDARSHAK.

54. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the hardships that low people are put to by the working of the system of recruiting forced labour. He says that the system has been vigorously at work for about a month: and as the police have also been empowered to press people into service, the evil has become much greater than it was when the power of enforcing the system rested with the zemindars alone. How people suffer under the system will be clear from the following:—

Forced labour in Assam.

- (1).—Men being forced away from the markets have to sustain great loss, as their commodities have to be left behind, and they are not paid any compensation for them.
- (2).—Those who are forced to labour never get the full remuneration sanctioned by Government.
- (3).—The labourers furnished by the zemindars are generally sent away without payment of any remuneration for the time they take to come to the appointed place, and so on. As these men generally belong to the labouring classes, they have to suffer pecuniarily for this unnecessary loss of time.
- (4).—Men coming to the markets after dinner are made to work the whole night, and go home at noon the next day. Thus their sufferings in this cold season are unspeakable.
- (5).—If any one refuses to work, recourse is had to physical force in order to make him work.
- (6).—At times a whole family have to go without their day's food in consequence of the bread-winner of the family being forced away to labour when out marketing, and no notice of this being given to the family.
- (7).—The system often gives rise to friction between the police and the people in the markets, as was the case the other day, when a regular fight took place between the men of the Moulvi Bazar Police and the market people.

There can be no doubt that this oppression of the people can be put a stop to if the authorities take pity on the poor labourers.

55. The same paper writes as follows on the necessity of reforming the Judicial Service of Assam :—

The Assam Judicial Service.

“ Even the Public Service Commission, though it could not give much attention to a small province like Assam, saw the necessity of reforming its judicial service, and advised the employment of pleaders as Extra Assistant Commissioners. Government itself can bear witness to the better judicial work done in Cachar by the appointment of a pleader as Extra Assistant Commissioner in that district, in pursuance of the advice of the said Commission. That it has not followed the same plan in the other districts can be only explained on the theory that the higher officials are fond of power and patronage.

In Sylhet the judicial work is conducted as in Bengal, and the judicial officers of this district are appointed by the Calcutta High Court. Men who have been found to be the most inefficient members of the judicial service of Bengal are generally sent to this district. Under these circumstances, it will be much better if the Local Government constitutes a separate Judicial Service recruited from Assam men, instead of appointing favourites to these posts of responsibility. Undoubtedly Assam men will be fitter for these judicial posts than those Bengalis who seldom know anything about things outside the Mahratta Ditch. Again, all the judicial work of this district is performed by two persons only, a District and Sessions Judge and a Subordinate Judge. The various duties of the District and Sessions Judge make it often necessary for him to transfer civil appeals to the file of the Subordinate Judge, who, it may be stated in passing, is very much pressed with his own work. He is an old and experienced officer, and yet he has to work hard day and night to keep his own file clear.”

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

The 8th February 1890.

